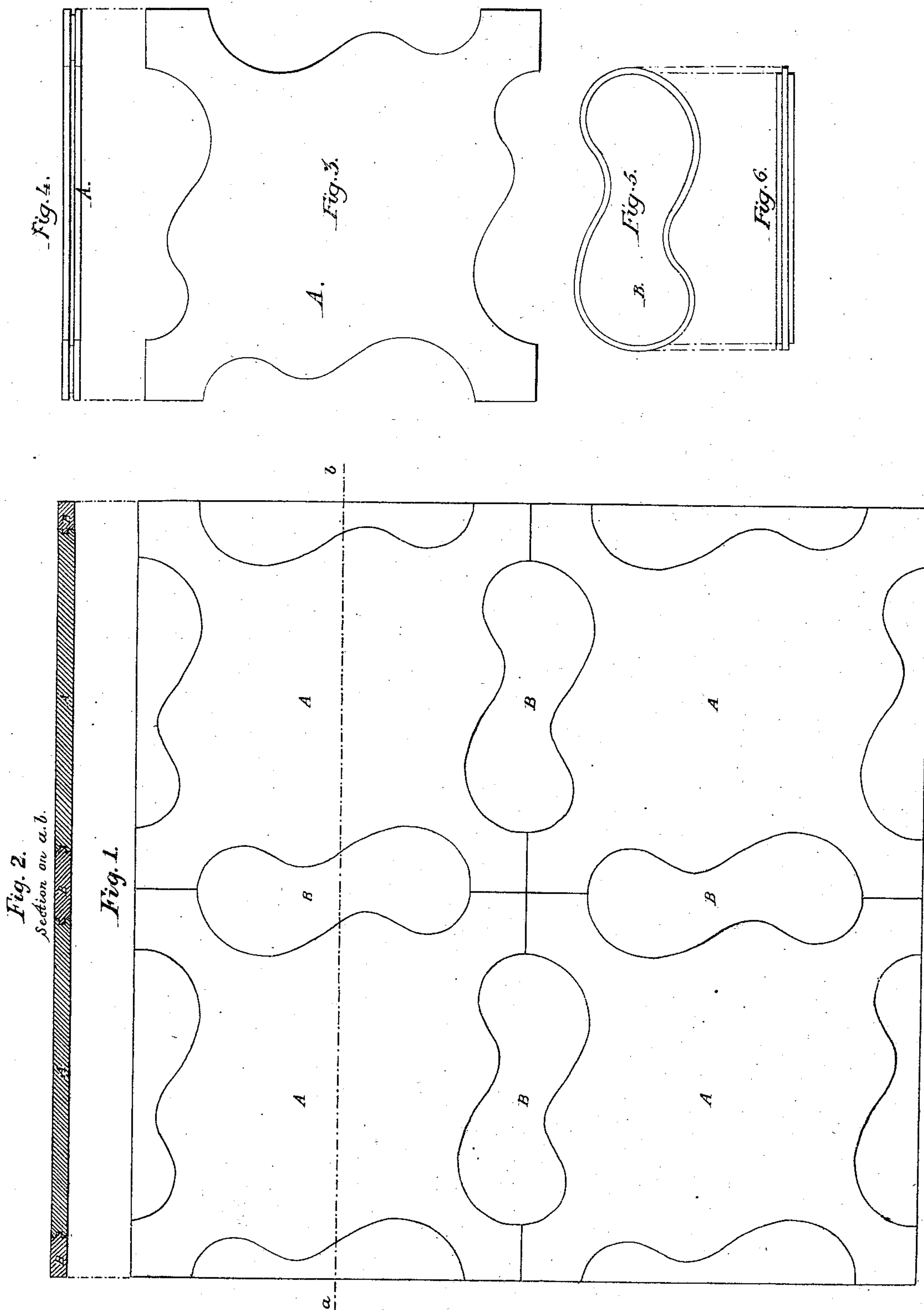


L. F. Groebel

Floor

N^o 12,246.

Patented Jan. 23, 1855.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LOUIS FRANCIS GROEBL, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

MARQUETRY.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 12,276, dated January 23, 1855.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LOUIS FRANCIS GROEBL, of the city and county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Kind of Marquetry, in which all the adjoining edges of the different pieces of wood employed to form this kind of ornamental surface are interlocked and reciprocally support each other, but without being permanently fastened together or to the floor, so that a surface may be thus overlaid and uncovered at will with almost the same facility as it could be covered and uncovered with a carpet. With marquetry as heretofore constructed this would be impossible, because each of the various pieces of which it was composed were glued or otherwise fastened permanently to the floor on which it was laid, and necessarily so, for the reason that each piece merely abutted against the next without being in any way connected to it, so that unless fastened to the floor the several blocks would be constantly liable to be displaced, and instead of forming a smooth covering for the floor they would be scattered loosely upon it in confusion.

A further advantage of my improved method of forming marquetry is, that the grain of wood in one block or piece may be placed at right angles to that of the adjoining piece and connected by tongues and grooves, so that the one will counteract the tendency of the other to warp, which, in this species of work is very great, especially as many of the pieces selected for their variety of grain and color are sawed out of knots, curls, or crotches of timber, and, as is well known are much more apt to warp than ordinary plain straight grained woods.

While my improved marquetry has all the above mentioned and many other advantages over the old kind, it also possesses every advantage which that does. Thus, if it be nailed or glued to the floor like ordinary marquetry, it would form a far more durable surface than that does. The advantages mentioned in the new, are consequently not, counterbalanced by any inferiority as compared with the old marquetry.

In the accompanying drawings which represent a specimen of my improved mar-

quetry, Figure 1 represents a square, composed of thin boards (A and B) of a tasteful variety of shades, colors and grains, cut into geometrical forms which reciprocally fit together to form the ornamental design represented. The edges of the larger pieces (A) are formed with grooves in all those parts which adjoin the edges of the smaller pieces (B) while on the remainder of their edges, one half is tongued, and the other grooved, that they may unite with the edges of the corresponding parts of the other pieces of the same form, which join them. The small pieces (B) have tongues formed on all their edges to enter the grooves in the edges of the large pieces (A). This configuration of the edges of the pieces of wood is shown in Fig. 2, which represents a vertical section through Fig. 1 at the line (a b); in Fig. 3, which represents a plan, and in Fig. 4 which represents an edge view of one of the large pieces (A); in Fig. 5 which represents a plan, and in Fig. 6 which represents a section of the small piece (B). The forms and colors of the pieces admit of almost infinite diversification to represent the various ornamental devices which are appropriate to this style of decoration.

Flooring boards are usually grooved and tongued on their two longest sides but are not grooved or tongued around their entire perimeter as are the pieces which compose my improved marquetry. In this particular this ornamental covering for floors differs in its construction from flooring of all kinds, and for all purposes before known.

What I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The marquetry herein described, in which the different pieces of which it is composed, are firmly united at their adjoining edges, so as to secure the advantages herein described; but I make no claim to the invention of tonguing and grooving, nor to forming an ornamental design, or style of decoration, by making combinations of wood of various forms or colors.

LOUIS FRANCIS GROEBL.

Witnesses:

H. N. STEELES,
N. CALLAN.